

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, at 10 a.m. on the nominations of Terry Garcia to be Assistant Secretary of NOAA and Raymond Kammer to be Director of NIST.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND THE COMMITTEE
ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS,
JOINTLY

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, the Finance Committee Subcommittees on Social Security and Family Policy and on Health Care and the Banking Committee Subcommittee on Securities request unanimous consent to conduct a joint hearing on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to hold hearings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee Special Investigation to meet on Tuesday, October 7, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on campaign financing issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on "Vindication of Property Rights: Improving Citizens' Access to Justice."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on the Nomination of Charles Jeffress to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor [OSHA] during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, at 9:45 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs requests unanimous consent to hold a markup on the following pending legislation: S. 309, S. 464, S. 623, as amended, S. 714, as amended, S. 730, as amended, S. 801, as amended, S. 813, S. 986, as amended, S. 987, as amended, and S. 999.

The markup will be held at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 725, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Collbran Reclamation project to the Ute Water Conservancy District and the Collbran Conservancy District; S. 777, a bill to authorize the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes; H.R. 848, a bill to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the collection of the AuSable Hydroelectric project in New York, and for other purposes; H.R. 1184, a bill to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for the construction of the Bear Creek Hydroelectric project in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; H.R. 1217, a bill to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for the construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; S. 1230, a bill to amend the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956 to provide for Federal cooperation in non-Federal reclamation projects and for participation by non-Federal agencies in Federal projects; and S. 841, a bill to authorize construction of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System in the State of Montana, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HIS HOLINESS ARAM I

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to speak of a special event which is taking place in the State of Michigan. On October 17, 1997 until October 20, 1997, the greater metropolitan Detroit Armenian community and Michigan, welcomes His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

His Holiness has served as the spiritual leader of the Holy See of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church since 1995 and his visit to Michigan and the Armenian community is truly a blessing. Prior to his consecration as Catholicos he has served as the prelate of the Armenian community in Lebanon for 15 years. His Holiness is to be commended for his spiritual leadership not only in the Armenian Apostolic Church but also in regions of the world which face persistent unrest and violence. Through his ministry, published articles and lectures, His Holiness continues to impact lives and provide steadfast love.

The Armenian community has faced many hardships throughout its history, yet the spirit of the Armenian people and its leaders has never diminished. I am honored to recognize His Holiness for his dedication to religious understanding and the goal of peace throughout the world. May each of us be inspired to seek greater meaning in all that we do. Again, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to His Holiness as he visits Michigan.●

COMPREHENSIVE COAL ACT
REFORM ACT

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise today to add my name as a cosponsor of the Comprehensive Coal Act Reform Act of 1997, a bipartisan bill introduced by Senators COCHRAN and CONRAD just prior to the August recess. This bill seeks to alleviate inequities and unforeseeable hardships caused by the reachback tax provisions of the Coal Industry Health Benefit Act of 1992 [the Coal Act], while safeguarding the Combined Fund established under the Coal Act to ensure that retired mine workers get the health benefits they deserve.

As part of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Congress passed a proposal to help protect health benefits of retired mine workers by allowing the trustees of the newly created Combined Fund to reach back and require former employers of retired coal miners to pay substantial assessments to the fund in order to finance such benefits. While its goals are laudable, this sweeping proposal contains some serious shortcomings. For one thing, it unfairly imposes excessive assessments on some companies, while under-assessing others.

Senators COCHRAN and CONRAD have worked for some time to develop a compromise bill that addresses some of the shortcomings in the Coal Act. This effort led to the introduction of the Comprehensive Coal Act Reform Act of 1997, S. 1105, which I think makes a number of needed changes. I applaud efforts of these Senators to find a workable and fair solution to the reachback problem. And I've added my name as a cosponsor of S. 1105 because I support the primary thrust and goals of this bill.

I do not know if the formula adopted in S. 1105 perfectly resolves the problems created by the Coal Act. Some companies will probably continue to argue that they are paying too much and that others are paying too little into the Combined Fund. Retired mine workers will undoubtedly be concerned by any bill modifying the Coal Act until it's shown that the proposal causes no harm to them.

Finally, let me be very clear about one point. My cosponsorship of this bill should not be construed by anyone as a weakening of my support for retired mine workers and their families. They

worked tirelessly in their jobs—often at substantial risk to their personal health and safety—to help meet the energy needs of this country. They are entitled to retirement benefits earned for their dedicated years of service. Any corrective action we take in Congress must ultimately be consistent with this obligation.●

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, as you may be aware, the 1997 season marks the 100th team to play football for Middletown High School.

During these 100 years, Middletown football teams have been coached by Messrs. Bright, Masee, Sjellander, Cady, Spaulding, Greason, Southwell, Sundstrom, Downing, Springman, Goes, Sampson, Hughes, Finch, Bate-man, Rodiak, Nania, Whitehead, Brunner, Wolslayer, Ryder, and Scali.

Asylum, Hayes, Wilson, and Fallar are the football fields where the Middletown High School teams have played their games during the past century.

For the past 100 years, Middletown football teams have embraced the spirit of competition and have established a winning tradition.

Counted among former MHS football players are elected officials, teachers, doctors, coaches, construction workers, lawyers, businessmen, and members of the military who continue to make positive contributions to their community.

For the past 100 years, the "Middies" have been supported by the board of education, government, civic and fraternal organizations, and the greater Middletown community.

For these reasons, we ask that you give pause.●

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MENTAL RETARDATION ILLINOIS CHAPTER'S 1997 DIRECT SERVICE PROFESSIONAL HONOREES

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my distinct pleasure to join the Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Mental Retardation in honoring the recipients of the 1997 Direct Service Professional Award. These honorees are being recognized for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the lives of people in Illinois with developmental disabilities.

These award winners have distinguished themselves through their compassion, dedication, patience, and professionalism. Their work not only enriches the lives of those who they care for, but also enriches all of our lives and sets an example of service for all Americans to follow.

It is indeed my privilege to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the following Illinois direct service professionals: Sunshyne Albers, Angie

Berquist, Amy Birdett, Kathy Bouras, Barbara Eakin, Janet Hayes, Bertha Hernandez, Donna Johnson, Marcella Jones, Gertrude Kilpatrick, Thurman McGee, Rosalyn Moore, Charlotte Morrison, Gary Perkins, Larry Pullums, Carolyn Racki, Crystal Rapp, Dolores Sollenberger, Ellis "Steve" Stephens, Viparwon Thongchai, Lisa Vito, Cassandra Wilkins, and Larry Yaus.

I take this opportunity to join the Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Mental Retardation in saluting the winners of the 1997 Direct Service Professional Award. It is my honor to serve them in the U.S. Senate.●

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF IN IRAQ

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I stand before you today to speak of a situation which is of great concern. As Iraqi children returned to school last week, they began another year under difficult circumstances. For 7 years, the innocent children and citizens of Iraq have endured hardships and suffering which are immeasurable for many in this country. Economic sanctions imposed upon the country of Iraq by the United Nations were never intended to deprive the Iraqi people of the necessities of life. While some relief has occurred I believe that much more must be done.

Yet, the situation in Iraq is grim. According to the United Nations Food And Agriculture Organization [FAO], the Iraqi children are perhaps the most vulnerable and hardest hit. More than 600,000 children have died and it is estimated that 4,500 children are dying each month from problems related to malnutrition and shortages of medical supplies. While the sanctions continue, the regime prospers. It is time for the citizens and leaders of our country to continue to provide humanitarian aid to the most innocent of Iraq.

The United States Department of State has not objected to the issuance of licenses to United States organizations and individuals donating food, medicine, and other materials for essential civilian needs in Iraq. I am pleased that my office was able to assist the International Relief Association [IRA] based out of St. Clair Shores, MI, in obtaining a license to provide much needed supplies to the children and elderly of Iraq. I believe that it is essential to continue to seek out organizations and individuals who wish to assist in bringing further humanitarian relief to Iraq and to help them in obtaining the proper licenses to do so. Let it be known, that I encourage my colleagues to invoke the spirit of American humanitarianism and for each of them to examine the simple fact that aid must continue in this region of the world. I commend each organization and individual who has assisted in providing relief to the people of Iraq. May each of us be reminded that political and economic sanctions should not affect the lives of those who innocently suffer.●

SUSAN LANDON

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deep sorrow about the death of Susan Landon on September 28, 1997. Ms. Landon, a citizen of New Mexico and resident of the city of Albuquerque, graduated from the University of New Mexico. She went on to fulfill a rich and varied career writing for the Albuquerque Journal. I have become familiar with Susan's work, as she reported on a range of issues spanning much of the breadth of contemporary New Mexico life.

Ms. Landon worked as the youth page editor, and as a reporter for general assignments, education, and State news. She began writing for the Journal's editorial page in 1992, and continued to do so until a few weeks before her death. Susan excelled in her assignments, winning numerous city, State, and national journalism awards. She found particular satisfaction through her work covering various Native American issues, and was thanked publicly by the president of the Navajo Nation for the sensitivity and understanding which was reflected in her writings.

I would like to quote from an article written by Jim Belshaw, a friend and colleague of Susan, in which he said "Susan Landon was smart and fair and irreverent and compassionate and tough; she was a native New Mexican who knew and loved the State and its people. She had an unerring ability to cut through rhetoric and get to the heart of a matter, regardless of its camouflage."

Mr. President, I ask today that the full text of Mr. Belshaw's article be printed in the RECORD, as it provides a unique perspective on the life of this dedicated individual whom New Mexico will miss very much.

The article follows:

PRIZED REPORTER SHARED HER GIFT WITH N.M.

(By Jim Belshaw)

Susan Landon, my friend and colleague of 20 years, died Sunday. She was 47 years old. She left a gift—a photograph!

At first, I believed the photograph spoke only to those of us who toil in journalistic fields. But I was mistaken as well as myopic. The photograph's message, clear and sharp as a New Mexico autumn, is meant not just for the people who worked at Susan's side all these years but for anybody who cares to embrace it.

The black-and-white photo shows a young newspaper reporter on the job. She stands in muddy, ankle-deep flood water. She writes in a notebook while the man whose name and words will appear in the next morning's newspaper leans on the shovel he has been using to fling muck out of his flooded home. "Look who shot this," Susan said the first time she showed me the picture.

Stamped on the back of the print was the name of the Journal photographer—Jim Nachtwey, a mutual friend who has gone on to renown as one of the world's foremost photojournalists.

The picture is dated June 15, 1977; a handwritten note on the back of the photo describes the scene's circumstances.

"My mother wrote this," Susan said, smiling at the singular pride only a mother can have in a child.